(c) whether such a facility would be extended to the Dakshin Express plying between Delhi and Visakhapatnam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (c) As a matter of policy, catering requirements of passengers are met from the static units enroute.. Pantry car services are provided only on selected long distance trains for which due to timings, stoppages etc. the catering requirements of the passengers either cannot normally be met from the static units enroute for the facilities in the static units are inadequate. Besides, Railways are not having spare pantry cars at present.

Besides, due to poor patronage and heavy loss, the Railway administration had to earlier withdraw the Pantry Car services from Dakshin Exp. and to replace it by a second class sleeper coach.

Timings of Hirakhand Express Train

2489. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to regularise the timings of Hirakhand Express Train as represented by local bodies in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard and whether any additional facilities are proposed to be provided to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) At present there is no proposal for rescheduling Hirakhand Express.

(b) In order to provide convenient morning service to Bhubaneswar, DMU2 Utkal Sammelini S-1923 Palasa-Cuttack Passenger has been provided with push pull rake in lieu of 216 Passenger, with faster timings. This leaves Berhampur at 5.30 hrs. and arrives Bhubaneswar at 9.25. Besides, stoppage of Konark Express has been provided at Chatrapur.

Request from Karnataka Government for conversion of Railway Lines

2490. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has made a request to Central Government for the conversion of metre-gauge into broad gauge, the entire segments of Hospet-Hassan-Mangalore and Bagalkot-Managalore in view of the proposed setting up of a one million ton steel plant by the Joint Sector;

(b) whether Government are aware that apart from providing basic infrastructural facilities for setting up steel/petrochemical units at Mangalore, the conversion would also be economically justified on view of assured passenger/freight traffic; and

(c) if so, whether necessary provisions/budgetary allocations would be made for these projects on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir.

(c) The project for gauge conversion of Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore section has been referred to Planning Commission for their approval. The work is proposed to be taken up with the approval of Parliament, after the approval of Planning Commission has been received. As regards Sholapur-Gadag, the work is already included in the Budget. However actual construction work will be taken up on receipt of approval from Planning Commission who have been requested for the same.

Implementation of Railway Project in Maharashtra

2481. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for various railways projects under implementation in Maharashtra;

(b) what is the progress of these projects so far;

(c) the steps taken to accelerate pace of their completion; and

(d) the cost escalation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) the details are given below :—

New Lines	Target	Progress Till 31-12-1993
Projects		
1. Amravati-Narkhed	1998-99	Final location Survey is in Progress.
GAUGE CONVERSIONS		
Projects		
i. Daund-Baramati (42 kms.)	1993-94	80%
ii. *Gondia-Chanda Fort* (248 *kms.*)		
Gondia-Wadsa (105 kms.)	1993-94	80%
Vadsa-Chanda Fort(143kms.)	1995-96	10%
iii. Sholapur-Gadag (300 kms.)	Work will be started after Planning Commission's approval is received. Target will be fixed when the work is started.	
iv. Manmad-Aurangabad–		
Parbhani-Parli Vaijnath (354 *kms.*)		
Jalna-Parbhani (116 kms.)	1993-94	90%
v. *Parbhani-Purna-Mudkhed-Adilabad and Purna-Mudkhed* (244 *kms.*)		
Parbhani-Purna (29 kms.)	1994-95	10%
Adilabad-Mudkhed (162 kms)	1995-96	
Mudkhed-Purna (53 kms.)	1996-97	
vi. Miraj-Latur (326 kms.)	Work will be taken up after Planning Commission's approval is received. Target will be fixed when the work is started.	
vii. Miraj-Londa (188 kms.)	1994-95	5%

(c) Works are proceeding as per planned schedule drawn up for their completion.

(d) The cost escalation of the above projects are as under:—

i. Daund-Baramati	—Nil
ii Gondia-Chanda Fort (248 kms)	—Nil
iii Manmad-Aurangabad-Parbhani-Parli Vaijnath	—Rs 76.00 crores
iv Parbhani-Purna-Mudkhed-Adilabad and Purna-Mudkhed	—Rs 32.00 crores
v Miraj-Londa	—Nil

Priority to Transportation of Foodgrain and State Agro-Produce

2492. SHRI BHUPINER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways would accord priority to transportation of foodgrains and other agro-produce from surplus States to deficit States for which facility is confined to State procurement agencies only;

(b) whether it is a fact that freight charges by road are four times higher as compared to the Railways; and

(c) if so, whether Railways would allow wagons for transportation to all, other than State agencies without delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Priority in allotment of wagons for goods traffic is accorded as per provisions of Preferential Traffic Schedule General Order No. 77. Foodgrains sponsored by Ministry of Food, Food Corporation of India and Ministry of Defence move under priority 'B' and when sponsored by State Govt. and State Agencies it is accorded priority 'C' Foodgrains on trade account when offered in full train loads is accorded priority 'D'. Important agro produce have been accorded to priority 'C'.

(b) It is likely that road rates may be higher between certain pairs of points and lower between others. Road rates could also differ from region to region.

(c) Traffic offered by traders and other than State agencies is also cleared subject to operational and route quota restrictions, priority and date of registration of indents.

अनधिकृत व्यक्तियों द्वारा रेल यात्रियों को परेशान किया जाना

2493. **श्री विट्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मेल और एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों में यात्रा के दौरान अनधिकृत रूप से चाय और अन्य खाद्य पदार्थ बेचने वाले व्यक्ति दिनभर यात्रियों को परेशान करते रहते हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० सी० लेंका) : (क) कुछ ऐसी घटनाएं नोटिस में आई हैं ।